Should you require your students to turn on their Zoom cameras?

**PROS**

Showing faces:
- Creates a sense of **connection and accountability**.
- Fosters **community** and enhances **presence**.
- Is required to build **engagement and trust**.
- Simulates in-person instruction. **Students have to show their faces in class**.
- Makes it easy to **identify students by name** especially in large-enrollment classes.
- Gallery view or the "**Brady Bunch view**" makes everyone visible to each other at the same time. May help to break perceived power differential.

**CONS**

Consider:
- The **digital equity gap** for example **limited bandwidth, internet access, and no camera on older laptops**.
- Invasion of **privacy**. Students can see other students’ faces all the time.
- **Self-consciousness** is also an issue.
- The stimulation of **staring into faces at close range can be exhausting**.
- The element of **video overshooting**; students do not want to show their **surroundings**.
- Concerns about **FERPA-protected information**.

**ADVICE**

Please consider the following recommendations:
- **Establish expectations** for turning on cameras early on, and explain why.
- Set **norms** for synchronous meetings and the use of video camera.
- Turning video cameras on should not be mandatory.
- Have short conferences to have face-to-face with students. Encourage, but do not insist on the use of video camera for discussions, **virtual office hours, and consultations**.
- You may ask students to make themselves visible if they are asking/responding to a question; otherwise, use chat.
- In larger classes, some professors tell students to turn their cameras off during lectures.

**FOR LIVE LINKS VISIT:**
https://beav.es/4Rk